

Persons Unemployed

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information Services.

Definition: Covered unemployment is a count of the number of persons receiving unemployment compensation.

Limitations: These numbers underestimate the full magnitude of unemployment, since they exclude so-called "discouraged workers" (persons who have stopped looking for work), as well as those unemployed who fail to meet the necessary requirements to qualify for unemployment compensation. In order to qualify, a claimant must meet a number of technical requirements having to do with the amount of time worked, and the amount of wages paid during the applicable work period. In order to continue receiving benefits there are additional requirements about actively looking for work and being able to take appropriate employment if and when it is offered.

Data Detail: These data are tabulated for the week including the 12th of March for each year. Geographical coding is based on the postal address where the unemployment compensation check is sent. In some cases the unemployed person is no longer residing in Virginia. However, in all cases the qualifying income was earned in the Commonwealth.

Unemployed: The number of people who, during the reference week (includes the 12th of the month):

- (1) had no employment but were available for work and;
- (2) had engaged in any specific job-seeking activity within the past four weeks, such as registering at a public or private employment office, meeting with prospective employers, checking with friends or relatives, placing or answering advertisements, or writing letters of application; or
- (3) were waiting to be called back from a job from which they had been laid off; or
- (4) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

Unemployment: Occurs when any of the factors of production (labor, land, capital, and entrepreneurship) are not employed in production of goods and services. Unemployment occurs when labor, a factor of production, is not being fully utilized to due to the unavailability of suitable jobs. It is strictly defined as a situation where people who are willing and able to work cannot find employment.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers to be used for the payment of unemployment insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond the workers' control. Unemployment insurance replaces a part of the worker's wage loss if he becomes eligible for payments. Unemployment insurance serves as an economic stabilizer by maintaining an individual's purchasing power when unemployed.

For More Information:

More information on the Virginia Employment Commission and its operations may be found at: <http://www.vec.virginia.gov>.

For more information about unemployment compensation, please go to:

<http://www.vec.virginia.gov/vecportal/faq.cfm>

Select General Unemployment Insurance Questions from the pull-down menu.

VEC contact information for unemployment insurance questions:

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